

Can 3D Printed Homes Help Combat the Housing Crisis?

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Method /'mɛθəd/ (Noun) a technique or process for doing something
Example: The company is trying out a new sales method and is eager to find out if it's effective.
2. Consumer /kən'su:mər/ (noun) a person who buys goods and services to use
Example: The marketing department is coming up with new techniques on how to attract more consumers into purchasing their products.
3. Separate /'seprət/ (adjective) forming or considered a unit by itself; distinct or different
Example: In a democratic republic form of government, there are three separate powers namely: the executive, legislative, and judiciary.
4. Connect /kə'nekt/ (verb) to join or link two things together
Example: The chimes are connected to the wood by a yarn.
5. Concrete /'kɔ:nkri:t/ (noun) a building material made by mixing sand, small stones, cement, and water
Example: The construction company made a huge profit from their sale of concrete.
6. Foundation /faʊn'deɪʃən/ (noun) the lowest part of a building or structure that supports all other parts
Example: It took the builders the whole day to lay the foundations for the new house.



A company in Los Angeles is using recycled plastic and 3D printing to build small homes. A number of companies make 3D-printed homes, which could help with the housing crisis being experienced in different parts of the US as well as many parts of the world. Azure Printed Homes says it can make its houses as much as 70% faster and 30% cheaper than traditional building methods. Instead of the concrete used by most 3D-printed housing companies, Azure says that its building materials are made of more than 60% recycled plastic.

At the moment, Azure is working with industry partners to get that plastic from other businesses, reports Good News Network. But the company wants to start using consumer waste — so that plastic water bottle that you're finished with could be used to make a house one day! However, the company's 3D-printed buildings aren't made to be single, separate homes. Instead, they're made to be extra buildings for existing homes that can be used to make more space for family members or be rented out.

Azure has five building types on its website available for pre-order. These go from single-room buildings that can be used as offices and cost from \$25,000 to two-bedroom guest houses starting at \$200,000. Plans for the 84-square-meter, two-bedroom guest house on Azure's website show a kitchen, bathroom and even space for a laundry room. The buildings are made in Azure's LA factory and will be nearly complete when they arrive by truck. All they will need is to be put on a foundation and connected to things like water and electricity.

DISCUSSION

1. Do you expect 3D-printed homes to become commonplace in the near future?
2. What kind of property could you buy in your town or city for \$200,000?
3. If you could have an extra room added to your home, what would you use it for?
4. If you were to design your dream home, what would it be like?
5. How have housing prices changed where you live over the past few years?
6. If you could buy a house anywhere in the world, where would you choose?